MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. Please... (*Interruptions*).... Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. Please...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: मैं जवाब देने के लिए तैयार हूं। ....(व्यवधान)...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, इसके ऊपर डिसकशन होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, इसके ऊपर डिसकशन होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, what is the number of...(*Interruptions*).... being affected? ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there is an established practice in the House. If the Member who has put the question is not present, that question is not taken up. Let us not be accused of violating our rules in such a flagrant manner. The subject may be important enough but there are other ways of taking up the subject. So, let us proceed as per our own practice. Q. No. 183 ... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, मेरा निवेदन इतना है कि एक बार प्रश्न अगर सूची में आ गया, तो यह हाऊस की प्रॉपर्टी बन जाता है। मैं मानता हूं, जो आपने कहा है कि हमारी यह परंपरा रही है कि अगर प्रश्न पूछने वाला सदस्य उपस्थित नहीं है, तो हम सामान्यत: वह प्रश्न नहीं पूछते हैं, लेकिन ऐसी स्थिति में, जबकि प्रश्न के महत्व को देखते हुए आपको यह अधिकार है, यह आपको विशेष अधिकार है कि ....(व्यवधान).... आप इस रूल को ज़रूर रिलैक्स कर सकते हैं और आपको चाहिए कि सदन की भावनाओं को देखते हुए आप इस नियम को रिलैक्स करके प्रश्न को लेने की कृपा करें। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अमर सिंह : मैं आपका समर्थन करता हूं ।...(व्यवधान)... मैं आपकी बात का समर्थन करता हूं। यह बहुत सही है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is a very serious issue. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members wish to change the rules they are welcome to move in that direction. (*Interruptions*)

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, आप इस पर Half-an-Hour डिसकशन कराइए। ....(व्यवधान)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, आप अनुमति दे दीजिए। ....(व्यवधान)...

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): I may submit before you. Sir, on behalf of the Government that whenever the Members desire to have a full discussion in the House on an important matter, they can give the notice. Government is prepared to participate in the discussion and respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that settles the matter. Now, Q. No. 183.

*182. [The questioner (Shri Praveen Rashtrapal) was absent. For answer *vide* page 21 infra.]

National child labour projects scheme

*183. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on "World Day Against Child Labour" this year, Government formulated "National Child Labour Projects Scheme (NCLPS)" for welfare and rehabilitation of children below 14 years of age;

(b) if so, the salient features of NCLPS indicating the number of districts covered, till date;

(c) the number of occupations processes which are considered hazardous, banned by Government for employment of children aged between 5 to 14 after 2006, when child labour was declared illegal; and

(d) the budgetary allocations made during 2007-08 for welfare programmes of children in comparison to 2006-07 as well as during the Eleventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme since 1988. Under the NCLP Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put in special schools where they are provided education, nutrition, vocational training, stipend and regular health check-ups so as to prepare them in a maximum of three years time to join the mainstream education system. The NCLP Scheme is at present being implemented in 250 districts of 20 States in the country.

(c) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 15 hazardous occupations and 57 hazardous processes. This includes two occupations *viz.* children working as (i) domestic servants and (ii) in dhabas, hotels, etc., which were added in October, 2006.

(d) the budgetary allocations for NCLP Scheme during 2006-07 and 2007-08 are Rs. 127.00 crore and Rs. 175.05 crore respectively. For the 11th Plan period, the proposed Plan Outlay for schemes relating to elimination of child labour is Rs. 3738.91 crores. The same is subject to necessary approvals.

श्री दारा सिंह: चेयरमैन साहब, हम सभी जानते हैं कि बच्चे देश का भविष्य होते हैं। बच्चों की एजुकेशन और सेहत, दोनों का ध्यान रखना चाहिए। हमारे देश को आज़ादी मिले साठ साल हो गए हैं, लेकिन अभी तक हमारा देश उस तरफ नहीं बढ़ पाया है। हमारा पड़ोसी देश चीन उसी समय आज़ाद हुआ था और आज वह बहुत आगे बढ़ गया है। आज वह वर्ल्ड पावर बना हुआ है और ....(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री दारा सिंह: सेहत के हिसाब से भी उनके बच्चे हमसे आगे हैं। आप सब जानते हैं कि ओलम्पिक खेलों में चीन ने बहुत सालों तक भाग नहीं लिया था और जब उसने भाग लिया, उसके बाद उसने इतने मैडल जीते हैं कि आज वह नंबर वन है मैडल जीतने में। मेरे कहने का मतलब है कि ....(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: आप का सवाल क्या है?

श्री दारा सिंह: मेरा सवाल लेबर के बारे में है कि बच्चों की देखभाल करने के लिए जो चाइल्ड लेबर है, उसके लिए क्या लॉ पास करना है, बच्चे की सेहत के लिए कौन सी चीज़ अच्छी है? मेरा कहना यह है कि आन्सर तो मिल गया है और सरकार जितना कर सकती है, उस हिसाब से कर रही है, लेकिन मैं ....(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री दारा सिंह: सवाल सीधे ही पूछूं?

श्री सभापति: जी, बिलकुल सीधा।

श्री दारा सिंह: वह तो लिखित में आ ही गया है।

श्री सभापति: तो बस ठीक है। दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी पूछना है, तो वह भी पूछ लीजिए।

श्री दारा सिंह: महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि पूरे देश की जो पॉलिसी है, वह सही तरीके से बने चीन की तरह। चीन में भी उन्होंने बनायी होगी, पहले वहां डेमोक्रेसी नहीं थी, अब तो वहां पर डेमोक्रेसी जैसा ही है। हम लोगों को भी उसी हिसाब से चलना चाहिए। जैसे एजुकेशन है। हमारे यहां बच्चे को दाखिला दिलाने के लिए एमपीज़ के लैटर दिए जाते हैं। बाहर के देशों में अगर माता-पिता अपने बच्चे को स्कूल नहीं भेजते तो उन्हें पकड़कर बंद कर दिया जाता है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि हमारी पॉलिसी पर इस तरह से बने, जैसी चीन में है। सर, जो नालायक बच्चा होता है, वह होशियार बच्चे की कॉपी कर लेता है और पास हो जाता है। ...(व्यवधान)...

एक माननीय सदस्य: चीन के मुकाबले में सरकार क्या कर रही है?

श्री सभापति: क्या आपका सवाल पूरा हो गया?

श्री दारा सिंह: हमारी सरकार भी कॉपी मार ले और चीन जैसी पॉलिसी बना ले तो मैं समझता हूं कि हम भी आगे बढ़ सकते हैं।

श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस: सर, यह बहुत खुशी की बात है कि वर्ल्ड के सबसे बड़े रेसलर आज बच्चों के बारे में चिंता प्रकट कर रहे हैं। हमारी सरकार की सबसे ज्यादा चिंता बच्चों के बारे में है। हम नहीं चाहते कि भारत चीन जैसा बने। चीन में कैसा राज है, आप सब जानते हैं। चीन में गरीबी है, हमारे देश में भी है। हम पूरा ध्यान बच्चों की ओर लगा रहे हैं। 14 तारीख से 15 दिन तक हमने देश में जानकारी के लिए, अवेयरनेस के लिए कार्यक्रम रखा। हम चाहते हैं कि हरेक बच्चा स्कूल में जाए, इसके लिए भी हमने कार्यक्रम बनाया है।

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, by when would he be able to cover all the districts and States under this Scheme, how many children are going to be covered, what is the quality of education and nutrition being given to all these children and who is accountable for this entire programme.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, our effort is to cover all the districts in the next Five Year Plan. Under the NCLP, we would like to have special schools in all the districts of our country in the next Plan. As per the 2001 Census, there are 1.26 crore of economically active children in the age group of 5—14. Out of which, approximately, 12.6 lakhs are working in hazardous occupations We have been able to get these children admitted into schools and 4.57 lakh working children have been mainstreamed to regular education under the NCLP. Sir, at present, there are 8,887 NCLP Schools being run in the country with an enrolment of 3.4 lakh children. Our effort is to see that parents are helped and see that their income is increased through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme whereby the parents will not be forced to send their children for child labour.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, according to the figures just given by the hon. Minister, I submit that the fund allocated for this objective is grossly inadequate. I think, the sum comes to much less than a rupee per child, per year. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there are any plans to increase the funds for this purpose. Also, related to this is, how many States have passed this law, because the States also need to pass this law to ban child labour. I would also like to know what is the State fund available to this, in addition to the Central Fund to make this scheme workable?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, as of now about Rs. 127 crores is being spent on this programme. But, in our next programme, we are going to spend about Rs. 3,000 crores. I am not able to straightaway give the figure of how much State Governments are spending. I

would like to provide this figure to the hon. Member. But, we have launched the programme. On 13th we have a meeting to the State Labour Ministers of our country and this particular programme is going to be discussed, not only the States where the children are being employed, but we will also be discussing with the States from where the children are coming to Delhi, Mumbai and other main cities in search of employment. We would like to plug it from both the sides.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, the children who work as domestic servants and at *dhäbas* are mostly SCs, STs and OBCs. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all the tribal districts, where there is concentration of tribals and poverty, have been included in this scheme. If not, when will all such districts be included in the scheme?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, the hon. Member hails from the State of Jharkhand. I am going to Jharkhand on the 1st instant. I will be having a special meeting with the State Government on this particular issue. Other than that, the hon. Member has raised a very relevant point about SCs and STs. Most of the poor people belonging to this section of society. Our effort is to strengthen our education system from SCs and STs. I assure the Member that we will be giving special attention to cover the SCs and STs.

Blacking out of TV channels by Gujarat Government

*184. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Aaj Tak, NDTV and CNN-IBN were blacked out in Ahmedabad by Gujarat Government in October, 2007;

(b) if so, whether All India Cable Operators Association has filed a complaint against this gagging of freedom of electronic and print media; and

(c) whether Government has devised or is devising effective safeguards so that freedom of electronic and print media is not arbitrary denied on whimsical grounds?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Cable Operators in the jurisdiction of Ahmedabad District were prohibited by District Magistrate, Ahmedabad from relaying certain programmes related to communal riots of 2002 that were carried by Aaj Tak and IBN-7 TV channels.

(b) No, Sir. However Cable Operators Federation of India had filed a complaint dated 21st August, 2007 stating that political campaign cassettes and CDs are being distributed through Gujarat Entertainment Tax & Information personnel with a letter written on departmental letter-head and 'operators are directed to show these footings on the prime time'. Another complaint dated 30th October, 2007 was received from the Federation that a company called Infinium is using OB Vans and various fibre optic networks to downlink the signals of the channel 'Vande Gujarat' from internet and distributing it using personal computers & fibre-optic cables to all the MSOs and cable operators in the State.

(c) Government fully respects freedom of the electronic and print media. All broadcasters are required to abide by the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. As regards print media it is informed that the Press Council of India is a statutory autonomous body with the twin objectives of preserving the freedom of the print media and of maintaining and improving